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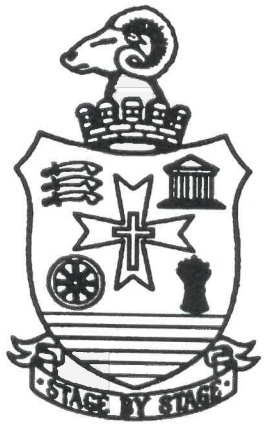

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Witham's Town Hall in Newland Street

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Councillor Tom Hewitt Town Mayor

Councillor Michael Jones Deputy Mayor

Foreword

By the Town Mayor

If you are a visitor to Witham may I extend a very warm welcome to you and say how much I hope that your stay in this pleasant mid-Essex town is, at the same time, enjoyable and memorable. If you are a local person, I hope that this Town Guide will give you a better insight into your town.

May I commend to both visitors and local citizens alike, the attraction of the Town's River Walk. This follows the tortuous path of the River Brain through Witham as it makes its journey through green meadows to join the Blackwater at a point just outside the town.

Local historian Janet Gyford's research along with that of others, has shown that Witham has been an important place for centuries and that the name of the town is of Saxon origin. However, the historical part of this Guide illustrates that Witham "goes back" much further than to Saxon times. The town's administrative and judicial role can be traced from the 9th century and this is seen today in the Town Council and its Clerk and by the long servicing Magistrates' Court.

This foreword would not be complete without a mention of the town's most famous past resident, namely Dorothy L. Sayers. The complete work of this world famous author is kept in the Dorothy L. Sayers' Centre in Witham Town Library. It represents the largest collection of her work in the country, and is I think, well worth visiting.

This foreword can only hint at the more detailed and wider information that you will find in the following pages of the Town Guide. May I, therefore, as the Mayor of Witham, say thank you so much for visiting our town and please do read the rest of this Guide, I am sure you will find it very interesting.

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Witham - A Town in the Heart of Essex

Witham is a delightful town in the heart of the Essex countryside. It has a railway station on the main line out of London's Liverpool Street, is situated on the A12 between Colchester and Chelmsford and has plenty of town centre parking.

With two shopping centres, a variety of shops, restaurants and pubs along its historic and well preserved main street, and a fully equipped Sports Centre, Witham is an interesting place in which to spend a few hours.

The River Brain flows through the town and a continuous walk has been created along its length for a distance of some 3 miles. The informal landscaping and wild areas within the 26 acres of this River Walk form an attractive feature of the town. The ancient Church of St. Nicolas, standing guard over the mediaeval settlement of Chipping Hill, lies beside the River Walk which then winds across meadows and links to open fields to the north west of the Town.

Witham Town Council has published a series of leaflets containing details of circular walks along the extensive public footpath network. These are freely available in the Heritage Centre, which houses a display showing the varied history of the town, and is located in the Town Hall. Behind the Town Hall, which has been carefully restored and renovated, a Period Garden has been created.

A number of churches are to be found in the centre of the town: The United Reformed Church in Newland Street and both the Catholic and Methodist Churches in Guithavon Street. Other churches lie further out, including Bethel Christian Fellowship, Guithavon Evangelical and Rickstones Evangelical. (All of these are shown on the map on inside back cover.)

Duck Pond, River Walk

A mile to the south of the town, the James Cooke Wood was established by the Town Council in 1993, as a Community Woodland. This occupies 14 acres of land adjacent to the old Witham to Maldon railway line. Again, close to the town centre to the east, the Whetmead Nature Reserve is to be found; here there is a wide variety of birds and insects together with many types of wild flowers.

As can be seen, Witham is truly a town in the heart of the country - come and see for yourself.

Witham's History

Like most parishes, Witham has many traces of pre-medieval people; only a few can be mentioned here. There was an important prehistoric fortification 3.5 hectares in size near Chipping Hill. A later enlargement was for a long time thought to have been the 'burgh' built by Edward the Elder in the year 913, as described in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, but this interpretation has been challenged recently. The fortified area now has the railway station in the middle of it, and is built over, but traces of the outer banks are still visible in many places. The main Roman road from London to Colchester probably ran along or near what is now the route of the "old A12", and the remains of a Romano-Celtic temple have been found near it, at Ivy Chimneys, off Hatfield Road. The biggest Saxon settlement was around the green at Chipping Hill. This was the centre of the royal manor of Witham, recorded in the Domesday book of 1086. There

were other manors such as Blunts Hall, some of which may have had small hamlets with them.

King Stephen gave the manor of Witham to the Knights Templars in 1148; their local headquarters was four kilometres to the north, at Cressing Temple, where their famous medieval barns can still be seen. Economic prosperity around 1200 occasioned the establishment of many new towns in England, and the Templars laid one out along the main road through Witham. It was made up of half-acre plots, occupied by individual households, and grew into the main settlement of the parish, known as Newland. Its market eventually replaced the older one at Chipping Hill. A few of Witham's timber-framed buildings have sections dating from the 1300s, as also does the church at Chipping Hill, and several surviving structures were built in the 1400s.

In the late 1500s Witham became involved in the cloth-making of north Essex, which was beginning to specialise in light woollen material for export. For a time the area was one of the most industrialised parts of England. Various crises in the export trade, and religious and political conflict, made the 1600s a turbulent time in town. Competition from the north of England and other factors led to industrial decline in Essex by the mid-1700s. But some rebuilding had begun around 1700, and by 1735 Dr. James Taverner had begun to promote a spa in Witham, using spring water from near Powershall End; he himself lived for a time in the building which is now Witham Library. The spa only flourished for twenty or thirty years, but it attracted fashionable visitors and residents. During that time and afterwards, many buildings were either rebuilt or refronted in brick, in the elegant Georgian style which helps to make Newland Street so attractive today. Behind them there were often small cottages in yards and lanes which have since disappeared. During the 1700s Witham also saw the development of retailing and professional services, and the coaching trade.

However, many people in the parish had always depended on farming, and this was still the case in the 1800s, when there were several crises in agriculture. It was in 1829, just before the 'Captain Swing' disturbances elsewhere, that there was an outbreak of arson attacks on Witham farms. James Cooke, a fatherless 16 year old farm boy, was hanged at Chelmsford for allegedly causing a fire at Olivers farm where he worked. The fires continued after his arrest and it seems very probable that he was innocent. The Town Council has recently named its new community wood after him; he would have known the site well, as it formerly belonged to Olivers.

In the mid-1800s many new public buildings and services were provided in the town, such as schools and churches, gas and water supplies, and a drainage system. The main railway reached Witham in 1843, and branch lines to Maldon and Braintree in 1848. But the only specialised industries were small ones such as the brushworks behind what is now no. 83 Newland Street and the seed-drill manufactory near Mill Lane. In 1912 the Pinkham family built their glove factory, mostly employing women, and in 1919 the Braintree window-making firm of Crittall built a factory here. These were the main employers in the town for many years, but both have now closed down their Witham works.

However, in the 1960s the Witham Urban District Council embarked on a

development scheme whereby industry and people moved out to the town from London. Many new factories and houses were built with the assistance of the Greater London Council; associated facilities included a new sports centre, new office buildings, shops, community halls and the river walk. Thus for the first time in its history, the town acquired a diverse employment base, and this is one of its great assets today.

Whetmead
Witham's Local Nature Reserve

Blackwater Lane, a turning off Maldon Road, leads under the By-Pass to Whetmead - Witham's Local Nature Reserve of 25 acres between the Rivers Blackwater and Brain.

For many years it was the Council rubbish tip but when the tipping ended, it was landscaped and planted with trees to screen it from the bypass. Later the lagoons which had been part of the sewerage works became redundant and were added to the Reserve.

Now Whetmead is an extremely attractive area of rolling meadow land, ponds, marshes and river banks which merge into the wider countryside with extensive views. It provides a home for many kinds of birds, mammals, wild flowers, insects and fish.

There are footpaths along the two river banks and round the Reserve. One of the lagoons has been dredged to provide a gently shelving area with open water and a platform for pond dipping with steps leading down to it.

The management plan for Whetmead aims to enhance the different areas and increase the variety of all species of flora and fauna. The rough grassland with its meadow flowers and population of insects is particularly valued for it is increasingly scarce in Essex.
Whetmead is open to the public and for educational visits for children.

Whetmead Nature Reserve

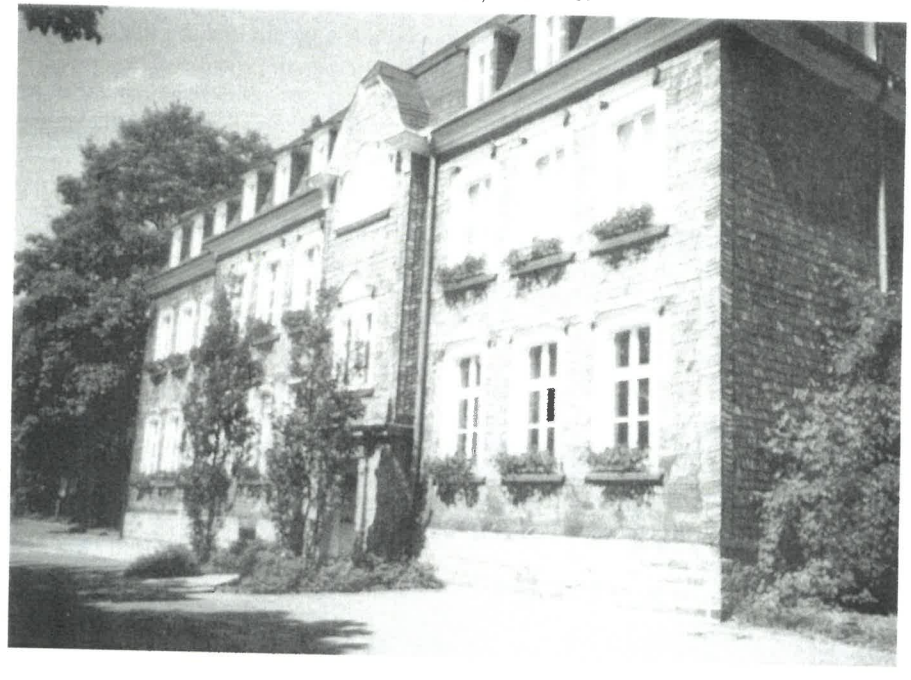
Witham and Waldbrol Twinned

The Towns of Witham and Waldbröl will be celebrating the 13th year of twinning in 1999. Over 60 members of the Twinning Association visited Waldbröl for 4 days in May during which time they toured the Landtag in Düsseldorf, the half-timbered houses in Freudenberg and a brewery in Hachenburg. An evening barbecue provided the opportunity to meet friends in Waldbröl as well as their friends from Jüterbog, in the former East Germany, and Swiebodzice in Poland.

From 17th - 21st June, the Witham Twinning Association hosted 53 guests from Waldbröl, together with some from both Swiebodzice and Jüterbog. There were visits to the Southend area, Hampton Court Palace and an official evening of celebrations which included a barn dance.

Since the official twinning ceremony on 17th May 1986 at Spring Lodge, a considerable number of our residents have been involved in exchanges and hosting of one sort or another. Students have gone to each others schools, and work experience has been gained in each others towns. There have been band and orchestra visits, art exhibitions and swimming and football competitions. Road signs and plaques have been erected, and an English red telephone box and letter box are installed in the main square of Waldbröl. A sculptured seat presented by the town of Waldbröl has been

The Town Hall, Waldbrol



sited in Witham and can be seen outside the Police Station. Identical seats are in Waldbröl, Jüterbog, and Swiebodzice. Above all, very many life-long friendships have been forged between the families of the two towns.

Waldbröl, founded in 1131, is a rural town of some 18,000 people, set in beautiful countryside approximately 30 miles east of Cologne, and not far from the Rhine and Bonn. Every other Thursday it holds a colourful 100 stall street market. During February there is a carnival weekend, in May a Town Festival, and at the end of November, a Christmas Market to which members of the Association are invited.

Waldbröl has some light industry, two large hospitals, good sports facilities, several churches and schools for all ages and special needs. There is a comprehensive system of education but with some selection by ability.

The Council elected in 1995 consists of CDU Mayor and 15 other members of the same party, 13 SPD and 2 Green Party members.

Further information is available in the quarterly Twinning Association Newsletters which can be obtained from Witham Tourist Office.

The New Town Council Offices 61 Newland Street, Witham

This was one of the most important buildings in Witham for nearly 500 years, first as the George Inn and then as the Town's Bank. So it is very fitting that it should again become a hub of activity in the 1990s. Some of its structure probably dates from the late 1400s, and there are a few surviving references to the George from that time. Thereafter it was probably the largest Inn in Witham, facing onto the market place; the site adjoining it to the left was also incorporated.

There are many examples of activity at the George. For instance, in 1620 its Innkeeper, Robert Bunny, was in trouble 'for admitting unlawful assemblies upon the Sabbath Day, spending their time in drinking, playing and the like, in the time of Divine Service'. In 1628 the inn was at the centre of a violent dispute in Newland Street between the townspeople and some Irish soldiers who were billeted locally; some of the Officers were staying at the George. During the 1700s and the time of the spa, Witham's Inns were particularly successful, receiving visitors and the passing coach trade.

At the George there were held concerts, balls and suppers and at various times during both the 1600s and 1700s the Innkeeper was also the Postmaster.

Shortly after 1800 the George closed down, and its striking inn sign was sold at auction. The building that is now number 61 was bought by a banker who had it re-fronted in brick. Soon afterwards the Witham Bank opened here. It continued for over one hundred years, despite several mergers, take-overs and bankruptcies. The name of one of the firms concerned, Mills Bawtree and Co., appears on a stone in a wall of the back garden. After 1910 a town clock was affixed to the building, the previous one having

perished when the Constitutional Club on the other side of the road was burnt down..

Finally in 1939, the bank moved next door to number 59 Newland Street. Number 61 then had several private users until it was purchased by the Town Council in 1993, and a lengthy and extensive refurbishment began. As well as removing the bank vault and strongroom, plaster was removed to reveal huge oak beams, one of which contained a beam painting. This is located above the Heritage Centre ceiling. Number 61 Newland Street is now known as The Town Hall.

The Heritage Centre, which was opened in May 1995 and houses the Tourist Information Centre, tells the story of Witham from Iron Age to the present day, and a display case is available for private temporary exhibits.

To the rear of the building an area of land has been transformed into a Period Garden, tastefully recreating an early sixteenth century garden, containing plants and herbs that would have been in gardens some 500 years ago. The garden is open to the public.

Witham's Industry and Commerce

Conveniently located on the A12 and with a history dating back to Roman times, Witham is host to several well known companies. Hugh Bairds the malters are acknowledged as a leading national malt exporter.

Bush Boake Allen, the long established flavour and fragrance manufacturers have traded from their base in Witham for many years.

The Industrial Estates host a variety of medium sized Companies and a selection of small businesses which have taken advantage of its low cost small Business Units.

EEV, Crompton Parkinson, Farah, Rothschild Merchant Bank and the Marsh Group are some of the leading national companies who have chosen to come to this convenient location.

Situated within easy commuting distance of Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports yet out of City bustle, Witham is an ideal location for today's High Tech Businessman. Its well established Industrial Estates offer a convenient low overhead location to export minded business and offer direct road and rail links to all South East ports.

With all eyes looking to a growing European market, Witham is well situated to help smaller businesses leap forward. Its forward thinking Council is carefully planning for the next Millennium, whilst maximising its historic and conservation aspects. Witham lies at the heart of Essex and welcomes and encourages new Industrial and Commercial Development.

Town centre premises prepared for annual Witham in Bloom Competition

The George in Newland Street

James Cooke Wood Community Woodland

Period Garden behind Town hall

WITHAM TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Witham Technology Centre in Braintree Road, Witham was established by the Braintree District Council as a local centre for the training and re-training of adults wishing to return to work and for school leavers. The training service is now a key part of Braintree Council's Environmental and Planning Directorate and supports the district's Economic Development Strategy.

The centre is equipped with the latest I.T. and communication systems and has been adapted for the convenience of persons with disabilities. Adaptations include purpose built toilet facilities for wheelchair access, and wide doorways on the ground floors of the building. A chair lift is also provided for access to the second and third floors.

The Centre is an approved supplier to the Essex Training & Enterprise Council, and is a BSI Registered Firm for the ISO 9002 quality standard and it holds the prestigious INVESTOR IN PEOPLE Award.

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Partnerships are established with major employers, local business groups and funding agencies with a view to providing a long term and sustainable training and support service for small and medium sized enterprises. Through Braintree District Council's involvement in the Government's Welfare to Work initiatives, the centre can even help employers find suitably qualified adult staff - when they are required.

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Evolving from its historical roots the attractive town centre of Witham is today carving itself a niche by marrying together modern retail shopping centres with the individuality of independent shops.

With its long wide main road that once saw horse drawn coaches en-route from Harwich to London stopping at its inns, retention of its character and architecture plays a part in drawing people into this market town. Its retailers, in tune with the conservation ethos, that ensures the best of Witham remains for the future, offer a blend of traditional service and a range of modern products and services. Popular retailers

such as Clarks, Richards, Boots and Woolworths are also found in Witham. There are independent shops catering for the more discerning shopper in audio visual, sugarcraft and cake decoration and others.

Witham has family restaurants, bistros, fast food outlets and pubs catering for all tastes. You will find the convenience of grocery shopping without driving miles, car parks close to the shops, specialist hobby shops, for motorists and for the home that provide a retail mosaic which offer a refreshing change from many larger towns.

Witham is a thriving market town that understands the past and the future.

WITHAM STREET MARKET

The market in Witham has been granted a few Royal Market Charters and has a very long history. A regular market was being held in Chipping Hill around 1153, however the Records Office only show the Charter from 1212 being presented during King John's reign. Over the many years (centuries even), the market has been held on various days and in different places, and as you can imagine selling lots of different items than we would buy or sell today.

Our market traders aren't quite as old as that, but the current market has been on the same spot, in the car park by Collingwood Road, for the last 28 years, and some of our traders have been there since the beginning. This is a traditional street market - we no longer trade live animals but we do have a wide range of stalls from the usual (and unusual) fruit and veg. to modern day commodities, with all the variety and characters that go with it.

There is a large variety of different stalls on our market - if you haven't shopped with us lately why not visit us soon!

We look forward to seeing you on Saturdays from 9.00 am. - 3.00 pm.

WITHAM - SUCCESS IN BUSINESS

Witham's thriving industrial areas have a wide range of processing and manufacturing operations representing major international and private companies. Small enterprise units are available for niche market suppliers to develop their business. The electronics plant, foundry, food processors, furniture manufacturers, printers, maltings and support services provide a wide range of employment opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled people throughout the area.

The location of Witham close to the A12 is a key attraction to businesses requiring quick access to Europe through east coast ports, international freight facilities via. Stanstead Airport and swift access to routes off the M25 and London. Main line rail services enable visitors to reach Witham from London in less than one hour.

Prestigious offices in the centre of Witham offer employment to many of the town's 23,000 inhabitants. In addition small family businesses have contributed to the success of the town over many years and the changing economic market has seen an increase in small/medium enterprises, especially those in information technology.

WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCILLORS AS AT MAY 1999

WARD	COUNCILLORS	TELEPHONE
CENTRAL WARD	B.J. FLEET, 22, THE AVENUE, WITHAM, CM8 2DJ	512666
	M.C.M. LAGER, 45, CHIPPING HILL, WITHAM, CM8 2JT	513747
CHIPPING HILL WARD	P.R. BARLOW, RIVENDELL, CHALKS ROAD, WITHAM, CM8 2BT	514033
	K.D. BOYLAN, 1, CROMWELL WAY, WITHAM, CM8 2ES	512698
	MS. J.B. REEKIE, 113, HONEYSUCKLE WAY, WITHAM, CM8 2XQ	503021
NORTH WARD	M.J. DAVIES, 6, CROXALL COURT, WITHAM, CM8 2HR	510282
	DR. R.L. EVANS, 17, FOREST ROAD, WITHAM, CM8 2PS	516507
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	T. HEWITT, 67 ALLECTUS WAY, WITHAM, CM8 1NZ	515386
	R.A. HORRELL, 18, BRAMSTON GREEN, WITHAM, CM8 2HU.	500712
	MRS J.S.M. MARTIN 33, BRIDGE STREET, WITHAM, CM8 1BU	515827
WEST WARD	S.J. BENNISON 28, HUMBER ROAD, WITHAM, CM8 1TG	515157
	M.F. JONES,. 5, BLUNTS HALL DRIVE, WITHAM, CM8 1LZ	512568
	MRS K.E. TEARLE, 97, HIGHFIELDS ROAD, WITHAM, CM8 1LW	516833

OFFICES AT	TOWN HALL, NEWLAND STREET, WITHAM ESSEX. CM8 2FE.	TEL: 520627 FAX: 501358
HALL HIRE	e.mail: audreyharrington@witham-t-council.demon.co.uk	TEL: 520627

Witham Chamber of Commerce and Industry is part of a national organisation supporting local business and provides a forum for exchanging information at lunch and breakfast meetings. The excellent location of Witham and the support of a reliable work force has contributed to the growth of many successful businesses in the area.

Witham Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Chairman: Mr. T. Porter
Contact: Mr. R. Everard, Membership Secretary 01376 521411

WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Witham Town Council exists to serve the interests of residents and businesses within Witham and its locality. It is the first point of call for many people who have problems or queries about all local government services. The Council provides a link with local organisations and seeks to represent the views of Witham people on issues that are of interest and/or concern.

The Council is thus both an administrator of services, such as street sweeping of the Town Centre and the provision of Christmas decorations, and a coordinator of actions such as the Town's entry to the Anglia in Bloom Competition, Mayfest celebrations, and opposition to potentially adverse planning applications.

Witham Town Council is involved in commercial development and the protection of the environment; it supports local charities including the Homestart Holdfast and C.A.B. The Town Council jointly funds the Tourist Information Office located in the Town Hall Centre. As part of its ongoing support for the Community, the Town Council has made an office available at the Town Hall for members of the public who wish to gain access to the Internet.

An Annual Parish Assembly is held in late spring to enable all residents of Witham to meet their Councillors and to hear of the activities and developments of the past year and its plans for the future.

Officers and Members of the Council may be contacted through the office at 61 Newland Street, Telephone 01376 520627. A list of members and their direct contact addresses appears on the opposite page of this guide.

WITHAM IN BLOOM

For the past 5 years, in conjunction with the Anglia in Bloom Competition, the Town Council has organised a Witham in Bloom competition for schools, shops, public houses and garages.

Witham in the summer months is a riot of colour, and can be justifiably proud of its hanging baskets. In 1997 Witham won the Best School special needs garden and in 1998 a special commendation to Chipping Hill School for their Secret Garden entry.

HOME - START IN WITHAM

Home-Start in Witham is an organisation working with volunteers who offer support, friendship and practical assistance to families with children under 5 years of age.

Referrals are made to the organiser from Health Visitors, Social Workers and Doctors. Parents can also seek help for themselves which they frequently do.

Home Start supports families in the community of Witham in many ways and for many reasons. It may be an isolated mum new to the area who feels she cannot cope or a single father who is facing bringing up young children on his own. Sometimes we are asked to help a young mother who is suffering from post natal depression or to support a family who has a child with special needs and is experiencing the unique difficulties of such a situation. In short, Home-Start can be approached by anyone to provide help, support and practical advice for young families. At Home-Start our families are always welcomed with confidential sympathy and understanding.

Home-Start is a charity and therefore has to rely on donations to support the work that is carried out in the community. In the past we have been supported by Witham Town Council who provided a grant which enabled an office to be established in Witham. A number of other organisations have provided support to Home-Start in Witham and in return we are there to provide support at the time of need to those who require it most.

Any family who requires help from Witham Home-Start should telephone the Witham Office on 01376 512480 or write to Kathy Butler, Witham Home-Start, 7 Collins Lane, Newland Street, Witham, Essex CM8 2EB.

WITHAM AMBULANCE TRUST

Witham Ambulance Trust is a charitable Trust that was established in 1920 for the benefit of the residents of Witham and the surrounding villages. The aim of the Trust was to purchase, and then to maintain, an ambulance for the transport of patients living in the area in the time before the National Health Service was introduced. In 1996 the Town Council became Trustees of the Trust and today help for hospital visits can be given to any qualifying resident living in and around Witham.

Apply in writing to:
Witham Ambulance Trust, Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FE.

The Howbridge Infant School

Dengie Close, Witham, Essex CM8 1DJ

"Working for quality education in Witham"

We believe in working in partnership with children, parents and the community to provide high quality education in this friendly, caring, well equipped school.

Visits welcome
Age Range 4 - 7 years
Headteacher: Mrs. A.T. Beavis, Dip. Ed. (Adv)

☎: Witham (01376) 512153/510734
Fax: Witham (01376) 512153
e.mail: howbr@sol.co.uk

Travel Information

GENERAL

Witham is adjacent to the A12 and on the main railway line to London and the East Coast. The opening of the Chelmsford Bypass in 1986 has increased the appeal of Witham as a pleasant residential and local shopping town. It is also an ideal location for modern industrial and commercial development because of transport links.

BUS and COACH SERVICES

Various local and long distance services are operated in the Witham area. For instance there are coaches to Victoria Coach Station in central London. Coach tour companies use the same pick up point (by the old Post Office) for organised holidays in the UK and abroad.

Further information and timetables can be obtained from:

Witham Travel Limited, Newland Street, telephone 512292 - tickets for trains, buses, tours.

RAILWAYS

Trains are generally every ten minutes to London (Liverpool Street Station) during the morning and evening peak times. Fast trains complete the journey in about 45 minutes.

During off-peak times and on Saturdays, and Sundays, there is a basic service of three trains per hour to Liverpool Street Station reducing in the evening to two per hour. Except for one or two peak hour services, all trains serve the county town of Chelmsford.

Witham Station serves trains to Clacton and Harwich on the East Coast, and to Ipswich and Norwich in East Anglia, which may necessitate a change at Colchester. There is a branch line from Witham to Braintree with an hourly service.

Further information can be obtained from:
Great Eastern 0645 505000 or 0345 484950
Colchester Station 01206 564777

Whilst every care has been taken in compiling this publication and the statements contained herein are believed to be correct, the publishers and promoters cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies.
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Education

Enquiries about education can be made to Essex County Council, North Western Division, Crossman House, Station Approach, Braintree, CM7 6QL. Telephone 550202. The school system in Witham is as follows:

NORTH WITHAM

Chipping Hill County Infants School, Church Street Telephone 512201
Templars County Infants School Cressing Road Telephone 513477
Elm Hall County Primary School Conrad Road Telephone 516025
Templars County Junior School Cressing Road Telephone 512310
The Rickstones School Conrad Road Telephone 515756
The Rickstones College Conrad Road Telephone 515756.

SOUTH WITHAM

Powers Hall County Infants School Spa Road Telephone 512605
Howbridge County Infants School Dengie Close Telephone 512153
Powers Hall County Junior School Spa Road Telephone 513322
Holy Family R.C. (Aided) Primary School Maltings Lane Telephone 513418
Howbridge (C of E Controlled) Junior School Dengie Close Telephone 501648
The John Bramston School Spinks Lane Telephone 512911
Witham Sixth Form Centre Spinks Lane Telephone 520161
Places are available at Grammar Schools in Chelmsford and Colchester for pupils passing the selection test; the Anglo-European School Ingatestone, for pupils with strong European connections and the St. John Payne Roman Catholic Secondary School, Chelmsford

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS:

Southview School, Conrad Road
Telephone 503505

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVIDERS (POST 16)

Witham

1.Adult Education facilities:
The John Bramston School
The Rickstones School
The Witham Centre for Community Education, Spinks Lane, Witham
2.The Rickstones College
3.Witham Sixth Form Centre
4.Witham Technology Centre
5.Special Educational Needs:
Southview School, Conrad Road, Witham
Braintree
6.Braintree College, Church Lane, Braintree CM7 5SN. 01376 321711.
GCE A & AS Level Courses
GNVQ & NVQ Courses
EMFEC Certificate
Childcare and Nursery Nursing Diploma
Horizons - must be aged 25 - 59 and working less than 16 hours a week.
And lots more - telephone 01376 321711 for information.
7 Special Educational Needs:
Edith Borthwick School
Other educational establishments, including two universities are located in Chelmsford and Colchester.

Day Nurseries:

Pelican Place Day Nursery, Hill House, Witham. Telephone 01376 514971
Pelican Place Day Nursery Brimpton House, High Street, Kelvedon 01376 571361
Wickham Bishops Day Nursery, Village Hall Church Road Wickham Bishops
01621 892657
Hatfield Peverel Day Care Unit
Hatfield Peverel Infants, Church Road
Telephone 01245 382450

Holiday Schemes:

Hatfield Peverel Playscheme Contact Person: Margaret Allen 01245 381411
Spring Lodge Holiday Playscheme Spring Lodge Centre Powers Hall End Contact 01376 511042

Playgroups:

Witham Nursery, The Bungalow, Maltings Lane. Contact Person: Jill Pollard 01621 892657

Little Elms Playgroup, Laburnum Way. Telephone 01375 518590
Spring Lodge Playgroup, Community Centre, Powers Hall End.
Telephone: 01376 511042
Chipping Hill Playgroup Spring Lodge Centre, Chipping Hill Hall.
Telephone: 01376 511042
Contact Person: 01376 500955
Treetops Playgroup, Forest Road Hall. Telephone: 01376 511144 Contact Person: Christine Burg 01376 514715
Holy Family & All Saints Playgroup, Guithavon Street. Contact Person: Mrs. D. Simpkin 01621 892605
Elm Hall CP Playgroup, Conrad Road Hall. Telephone: 01376 516025
Little Learners Playgroup, Scout Hall, Maldon Road. Contact Person: Mrs. Harvey 0176 511316
Little Hands Playgroup, Community Hall, Dengie Close Hall. Telephone: 01376 511194 Contact Person: Jean Withers 01376 573455

Childminders:

A full list of registered childminders for the Witham area can be obtained from:
Social Services - (Covering Braintree Area) 01376 555400 or The Gables - (Covering Maldon Area) 01621 858958

Parent & Toddler Group - Witham & District Areas:

WITHAM

Toy Library also have Open Group at United Reformed Church on Wednesdays from 10am-12 noon.
Spring Lodge Toddler Group
Spring Lodge Community Centre
Thursday 1.00 - 3.00
Office Telephone: 01376 511042
Holy Family & All Saints Church Hall, Wed pm.
Guithavon Street Hall: 01376 502840
Mums & Tots Tues 10.00 - 11.30am
Rickstones Evangelical Church
Rickstones Road
Mrs Prothero 01376 500217
Valley Tots Tues 10-11.30am
Guithavon Valley
St Nicolas Mother & Toddler. Wed pm
Church Hall, Methodist Church
Thurs 10-11.30am
Open House, Community Hall, Forest Drive
Bernadette Dudman 01245 351023
Bus Project
This is a community bus for the elderly, children, and parents with toddlers.
Call Mike Harrison on 500669 for information.

HEALTH AND WELFARE INFORMATION

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

The Surgery, 4 Mayland Road, 512482
Fern House Surgery, 129 Newland Street. 502108 (Appts. 512935)
Douglas Grove 512827
Dr. Chandra-Lingam, 40 Collingwood Road 502264

DISPENSING CHEMISTS

Alpha Pharmacy, 4 Spa Road, 513462
AMF Medica, 52 Dorothy Sayers Drive 512655
Boots the Chemist, 42 Newland Street 513613
Borno Chemists Ltd., 124 Newland Street 520052
Lloyds Chemists, 5 Newland Street, 512192

DENTISTS

Roger Davies Partnership, 6 Newland Street 521081
G.K.M. Robinson, 141 Newland Street 513741
Collingwood Dental Surgery, 21 Collingwood Road 513040
R.J. Hossack, 4 Guithavon Valley, 515770
J.E.M. McCahon, 30 Maldon Road, 513107
Dental Surgery, 78 Chelmer Road, 513100

OPTICIANS

Belson & Son, 5a Newland Street, 512336
Boots Opticians Ltd., The Grove Centre 514026

FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

The Health Centre, 4 Mayland Road, 512243

HOSPITALS

1. Broomfield Hospital, Broomfield, Chelmsford 01245 440761
2. St. John's Hospital, Wood Street, Chelmsford 01245 440761

SPRING LODGE CENTRE

For Weddings, Socials, Children's Parties, Group Meetings etc.

6 Halls including Medieval Barn - 2 with licensed bars.

From 80 to 280 people. Scenic setting.

Indoor Second-Hand Market Sundays 9am - 1pm Oct to April

Halls available 7 days a week, 9am-11pm Mon-Thurs; 9am-12.30pm (past midnight) Fri & Sat; 9am-10pm Sunday.

Also Playgroup, Toddlers group, Holiday playschemes, Evening classes etc.

Lounge bar and other functions provided.

For further information please phone:

Powers Hall End, Witham. Tel: (01376) 511042

Reg. Charity No. 301438

TEMPLARS

The Templars Schools

Cressing Road

Witham

Infant School and Nursery

Telephone: 01376 513477

Junior School

Telephone: 01376 512310

High standards in a happy and purposeful environment.

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3. St. Peter's Hospital, Spital Road, Maldon 01621 854344
4. W.J. Courtauld Hospital, London Road, Braintree. 551221
5. St. Michael's Hospital, Rayne Road, Braintree. 551221

There is a **Casualty Unit** at Broomfield Hospital **only**

Maternity Facilities are provided at St. John's Hospital, St. Peter's Hospital and W.J. Courtauld Hospital - none at Broomfield Hospital.

Help Page and General Information

ACCOMMODATION - a list of bed and breakfast accommodation is available from the Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, Newland Street.

AMBULANCE - Telephone 999 in an emergency and ask for Ambulance Service.

ALCOHOL ADVISORY SERVICE Telephone 01245 350966.

BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL - Council Housing Repairs 01376 513332.
Refuse Collection, ask for Environmental Services Department 01376 552525.

CAR PARKS - Mill Lane, The Grove (Grove Centre), Newlands Drive, Easton Road (British Rail Car Park).

CAREERS ADVICE - Witham Library - Mon & Tues 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-16.00.

CHILD MINDERS - Details of registered child minders can be obtained from Social Services, Highfield, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, CM2 9AF - 01245 493622.

CHURCHES & CHAPELS
Church of England - St Nicolas, Chipping Hill.
Roman Catholic - Holy Family & All Saints, Guithavon Street.
United Reformed - Newland Street.
Methodist - Guithavon Street.
Evangelical - Guithavon Valley.
Bethel - Church Street.
Mission Hall - Rickstones Road.
Friends Meeting House - Butt Lane, Maldon.
Jehovah's Witnesses - Kingdom Hall, rear of Spring Lodge.
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Maldon Road.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - Public Hall, Collingwood Rd - Telephone 516222 Open 10.00-16.00 Mon-Thurs
10.00-13.00 Fri
Money Management
Telephone 512168 between the hours of 12 - 2.00pm.
Advice by appointment only.

CIVIC AMENITY POINT (Rubbish Disposal & Recycling Facilities) Perry Road, Industrial Area East.

COMMUNITY HALLS
1. Public Hall, Collingwood Road
2. Dengie Close
3. Forest Road

Lettings are arranged by Braintree District Council, Community & Leisure Services Dept. Telephone 552525.

COURT - Magistrates Court, Newland Street - (No parking) - use Newlands or Grove Centre car parks.

CREDIT UNION - Holdfast - 512568
9 Collins Lane, Witham.

DHSS - Govt. Buildings, Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex. - 325760

ELECTRICITY - Emergencies, Telephone 01245 261861.

EMPLOYMENT - Employment Office, 2-3 Freebournes Court, Newland Street, Telephone 01376 303030.
Unemployment Benefit - as above
Job Centre - as above
Benefits Agency - as above
Essex Careers & Business Partnership - Telephone 320331 or 321008.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ADVICE CENTRE - Witham Library, Newland Street. Telephone 520591.
Advice and information on all aspects of work by Essex County Council and other public services.
Open 9.00-13.00 Mon
13.00-17.00 Tue
9.00-13.00 Thurs
13.00-17.00 Fri
Alternate Saturdays 9.00-17.00
(closed Wednesday) (closed for lunch)

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
Highways Department 01245 467756
Consumer & Public Protection - Telephone 01245 355381

FIRE - The Fire Station, Hatfield Road - Telephone 999 in an emergency and ask for the Fire Service.

GAS - Service Calls/Enquiries - Telephone 01206 796021
Gas Escapes - Telephone 01206 796593

GINGERBREAD (One parent families) 0171 240 0953

LIBRARY
Essex County Library, 18 Newland Street Telephone 519625
Open 9.00-19.00 Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.00-17.00 Sat

MEALS ON WHEELS
(W.R.V.S.) 01245 269341

NEWSPAPERS
Braintree & Witham Times, 76 High Street, Braintree - Telephone 551551 published Thursday.
Evening Gazette, published Monday to Friday except Public Holidays, Oriel House, 43-44 North Hill, Colchester - Telephone 01206 761212.
Essex Chronicle, Westway, Chelmsford - Telephone 01245 262421 published Friday

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
Tel 01376 556225 - Crime Prevention Office.

POLICE
Police Station, Newland Street - Telephone 501212 or 01245 491212. In an emergency telephone 999 and ask for Police.

POST OFFICE
Martins, Newland Street - Telephone 510327.
Sorting Office - Telephone 513263.
Sub-offices in Rickstones Road, Spa Road and Hatfield Road Estate.

RADIO
The local radio stations are Essex F.M., Radio House, 19-20 Clifftown Road, Southend on Sea - Telephone 01702 333711.
BBC Essex, 198 New London Road, Chelmsford - Telephone 01245 262393.
Chelmer FM, Cater House, Meadow Walk High Street, Chelmsford.

RED CROSS 01245 490090

REGISTRY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES - Superintendent at 23a Bocking End, Braintree, CM7 6AE - Telephone 320762.
A Registrar is in attendance on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings at the Public Library in Newland Street to deal with births and deaths. Marriages at Braintree, Chelmsford or Colchester.

RELATE - Mid Essex Marriage Guidance Council - 01245 258680.

SAMARITANS Telephone 01245 357357

SEWERAGE EMERGENCIES
Telephone 0345 145145 - 24 HOURS

ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE
Witham & Tiptree Branch
Paula Franklin - President
01376 518118

TAXATION - Iceni House, Newland Street - Telephone 500011

VETS
Brookend Veterinary Surgery - Telephone 01376 500038, 49 Braintree Road, Witham
Spring Lodge Animal Hospital - Telephone 01376 513247, Spring Lodge Farm, Powers Hall End, Witham.
Year round 24 hour emergency service.

WATER
Essex Water Company, Hall Street, Chelmsford, CM2 0HH - Telephone 01245 491234

WOMEN'S REFUGE (Battered Wives)
Chelmsford - 01245 493114
Braintree - 01376 321720

VICTIM SUPPORT 01245 250799

TOURIST INFORMATION
Tourist Information may be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham. Telephone 502674.

Summer Opening
Monday - Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm
Saturday 9.30am - 1.30pm

Winter Opening
Monday - Friday only 10.00am - 2.00pm
The Tourist Information Centre is always closed on a Wednesday.

Leisure - Clubs and Societies

This list is always incomplete. Other clubs exist, but we do not know them. If your club or society is not included in this list, please send details to: Witham Town Guide, Witham Town Council, 61 Newland Street, Witham.

HOW TO FIND CLUBS NOT MENTIONED HERE
Notice board in Witham Library, Newland Street.
Staff at Witham Library, Newland Street.
Notice boards at Spring Lodge Community Centre.
Reception at Spring Lodge Community Centre.
Reception at Bramston Sports Centre (activities run by the centre).
Notice boards at Bramston Sports Centre (clubs not run by the centre). Notices on the boards will give you more up to date information than the staff will.
Braintree Citizen's Directory (published by Braintree District Council and Essex County Newspapers).

DANCING SCHOOLS
Discocise Ballroom/Latin/Disco
Mr & Mrs Weir, 561710
Marions School of Dancing - Adult Tap
Mrs Snook, 513658
DeMar School of Dancing
Mrs Snook 513658
Phillips Dancing, Witham
Ballroom/Latin/Disco
Chelmsford 01245 258510
Sarah - Jane Holliday Dancing School
01376 520221
Witham Twirlettes
5-25 years; carnivals, fetes etc
Mrs Chipperfield, 518256

MARTIAL ARTS
Aikido
(affiliated to British Aikido Federation) - Eric Gillett, 515892
British Tang Sou Dao Federation
Mr. Cook, 01702 420856
Judo
Witham Judo Kwai
Mr J. Peachey, - 521222
Karate
(Se-Sen-Ryu) - Mark Shelley, 551809
Tai Chi
Betty Pulleston - 520260

SPORTS CLUBS
Badminton
Bramston Crusaders
D. Smith - 515317
Bramston Sabres
Ms A. Northfield - 517527

Bowling
Crittall - 01376 517510
Braintree - 01376 347857
Towerlands - 01376 330689
Silver End - 01376 584547

Climbing Wall
Bramston Climbing Wall
John Clarke - 01371 820881

Football
Witham Town Football Club
Spa Road - 511198

Hockey
P. Ferris - 01376 513848

Gymnastics
Gyrus Gym Club
Mrs Anne Norman - 01621 891297

Rugby
Witham Rugby Club
Heather Turner - 520866

Table Tennis
J. Mills - 512094

Trampolining
Bramston Flyers
Ms C. Compton - 519985

Swimming
A. Digby - 01376 320793
Witham Dolphins - 01245 226543

Cricket
Braintree - 01376 340662
Silver End - 01376 584970

Tennis
Braintree - 01376 553204

SPORTS CENTRE
Bramston Sports Centre, Bridge Street. Indoor swimming pool, squash courts, weights gym, aerobics classes, swimming, diving, sub aqua, canoeing clubs, rooms for hire. Reception - 519200

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Witham Model Engineering Discussion Group
Mr. L. Hammond - 511686

Witham Art & Sketch Club
Mrs. J. Hammond - 511686

Witham Camera Club
Cyril Taylor - 514366

Shogi & Go
Alan Hughes - 520136

Red Ramblers
Peter Long - 513380

Horticultural Society
Mr. D. Jepson - 512023

Witham Model Railway
Keith Turbutt - 01245 381191

Powers Hall End Model Railway Club
David Luesby - 510 663

Braintree & District Astronomical Society
Mr. J. Green - 518512

Carlow Players
The Youth Theatre of Witham
Ms. C. Willison - 515334

Witham Dramatic Club
Mrs. Carey - 330920

Chess Club
Mr. Heppinstall - 01376 512741

Witham Amateur Operatic Society
Stewart Adkins - 01621 891143

Witham & Countryside Society
Mr. Palombi - 515411

Line Dancing
Contact: 01376 511042

ORGANISATIONS

Essex Army Cadet Force
Paul Lee - 01376 510788 or 213869

Wingfield Trust - Teaching Music to Disabled Children & Adults
Mrs. J. Phillips - 01376 501928

Boys' Brigade - 2nd Witham
John Boon - 520400

Girls' Brigade - 2nd Witham
Annette Heddle - 513379

7th Witham Brownies
Muriel Mowbray - 517613

Royal British Legion, Newland St.
Men: Mr. R. Sanders - 515753
Women: Mrs. L. Allen - 515526

Age Concern
Mrs. M. Prime - 514255

Busy Bees
Mrs. M. Prime - 514255

Daybreak (Braintree & Witham Bereavement Group)
514837 after 5.00pm

Chamber of Commerce
01376 521411

Witham Housing Association
Podsbrook House - 515017

Witham Social Dance Group
Spring Lodge - Mr. Rust
01621 817488

Witham Community Association
Ted Walker - 511042

Spring Lodge Senior Citizens Club
Mrs. Smee - 519664

University of the Third Age
Mr. C. Woods - 01621 891023

Witham Womens' Institute
Mrs. V. Farrell - 512288

Catholic Womens' League
Ms. C. Bowen-Davies - 01245 380418

St. Nicolas Tuesday Circle
Anne Sherlock - 512056

Witham & District Lions
Kerin Boylan - 512698

Witham & District Lionesses
Lesley Boylan - 512698

Witham Evening Townswomens' Guild
Mrs. P. Harlow - 513439

Town Luncheon Club
Mrs. P. Bellehewe - 519501

Inner Wheel Club of Witham
Mrs. D. Horsecraft-Blakeney
01621 816329

Twinning Association
Myrtle Coe - 513030

POLITICAL PARTIES
Conservative Association: 512386
Green Party: 584576
Labour Party: 513380
Liberal Democrats: 552156

ELM HALL COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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WITHAM,
ESSEX.
CM8 2SD
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Open when most others are closed!

Long course with two Par 5s, five Par 4s & two Par 3s

PAY & PLAY OR ANNUAL 7 DAY MEMBERSHIP £315 ALL INCLUSIVE,

NO GREEN FEES (OTHER MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE)

9 HOLES - £7 WEEKDAYS, £10 WEEKENDS

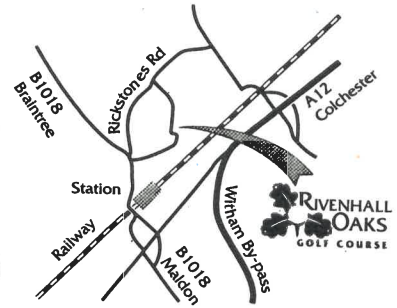
18 HOLES - £10 WEEKDAYS, £12.50 WEEKENDS

SPECIAL RATES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

TWILIGHT COMMENCES AT 2.00PM

TELEPHONE BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

01376 510222



RIVENHALL OAKS GOLF COURSE

FOREST ROAD WITHAM ESSEX CM8 2PS

Annual Events

CARNIVAL DAY - held on the second Saturday in July - this is a joyful occasion when businesses, clubs and groups decorate floats for a parade through the town centre. Participants eventually reach the recreation ground where the arena events and displays are held. Stalls, sideshows and fairground attractions surround the arena. Profits are donated to various charities.

MEDIEVAL FAYRE - in June, a Fayre is organised by people involved in the activities of Witham's parish church, St. Nicolas. Roads in the Chipping Hill area are closed and the green and street in front of the church is host to stalls, sideshows and games, many of which are given a medieval flavour.

FIREWORK DISPLAY - organised by the Round Table and takes place on a Saturday in November.

COCKNEY EVENING - organised by the Chamber of Commerce and takes place on a Friday evening in December, when shops and stalls remain open for trading and entertainment is provided by visiting Pearly Kings and Queens.

FUN RUN - organised by the Lions, and takes place on the first Sunday in May. There is also a half marathon and all monies raised go to various charities.

MAYFEST - Organised by Mayfest Association. A week of events at the beginning of May, starting with the May Fayre in Maldon Road Park on the first Sunday in May. Contact 513332.

BOXING DAY DUCK RACE - Organised by Holdfast Credit Union. Start at Moat Farm Bridge.
Contact: 512568.

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Witham (01376) 513491

3202/12231D

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WITHAM 520351

UNIPART CAR CARE CENTRE

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Tel; 01376 534500
Fax; 01376 534510

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Essex
CM8 3UH

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Newland Street,
Witham,
Essex, CM8 2UP

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